

FORM B - BUILDING

Date (*month / year*): June 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form
Number

41-0-2-0

Hanover

HNS.236

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 580 Main Street

Historic Name: Charles Howland House

Uses: Present: Two-Family Dwelling

Original: Single-Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1840

Source: White's History, Plan No. 4, Page 66

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Shed
roofed rear addition to former barn (missing its
south façade where barn had been located)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): long addition
to north façade, Italianate style hood installed
over front entrance (mid-late nineteenth century),
barn substantially demolished 2013

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: .69 Acres

Setting: Located on one of Hanson's main
thoroughfares across from community playing
fields in a largely residential area characterized by
nineteenth and early twentieth century homes
located close to the street on relatively large lots.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

580

Main Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.236

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The one-and-a-half story Greek Revival cottage has a cross-gable roof with a large, projecting gable-end section running north to south at the east end of the structure and a lower cross gable extending to the west from the northwest corner of the west facade. The gable-ends have wide projecting eaves with painted wood soffits and wood molding at its outer edge. This same wood molding is visible in the short returns in each corner which are extensions of the eaves on the gable facades which also have narrow cornice boards below. A low shed-roofed addition on the north facade of the house extends out past the north east corner of the house and has a second entrance. The house is wood clapboard sided with wide but simple wood framed windows with projecting sills and has retained its original two-over-two double hung wood windows. Two narrow brick chimneys with corbeled tops are visible on the east side of the house - one in the center of the east roof slope of the gable-end house and a second along its north facade.

The house faces south towards the road and has two windows on each floor of its south gable-end. The entrance is located in the right corner of the gable-end under a flat, Italianate style door hood which has decorative brackets that extend down to either side of the door. An original or early wood door is centered below and opens onto a short set of cement steps leading into the yard. On the west facade, a single window is located in front of the projecting cross-gable in the northwest corner of the facade. Although lower than the main gable-end roof, it is similarly detailed with the same projecting eaves that extend down over the cornice on the gable facades and wood trimmed eaves and soffits on the gable-end. Both its west and south facades have a single double hung window at their center and a third window is located in the west facade's gable-end. On the east facade, three double hung windows line the first floor, the last one tucked under a shed-roofed entrance porch in the corner between the east facade of the house and the addition to the north facade. The north facade addition overhangs the east corner of the house and has a north facing shed roof with a flat southern face that extends up over the low shed roof of the porch. A metal storm door and double hung window are visible within the porch on the addition's south facade. The porch has a low cement floor with steps on either side which leads to a brick walkway into the yard.

A Google Maps image of the site from 2012 shows a large, two-story, gable-end roofed barn to the northeast of the house which has since been removed. The only surviving element of the barn is a former shed-roofed addition to its north facade which is now a freestanding structure. This former addition is open to the south where its framing and trusses are visible to the street and has vertical board siding to either side. The asphalt paved driveway to the east of the house original ran up to and inside the barn, and now stops short at the center of the yard. To the north of the house is a small, wood clapboard sided garden shed painted to match the house. The house sits on a small rise at the center of the otherwise flat site and is surrounded by grass lawn. Mature trees line the street and are scattered throughout the property. The house is also surrounded by foundation plantings and low bushes on its east and south facades.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

580

Main Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

	HNS.236
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Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to White's History of Hanson, 580 Main Street was built for Charles Howland sometime between 1830 and 1856. This is confirmed by its appearance on the 1856 Walling Atlas but not on the 1830 Smith Plan. Charles Howland(1809-1866) was the son of Warren and Peddy Howland and worked as a furnaceman. Charles married Sophronia Jennings in 1838¹ and the house was presumably built for the couple at or after their marriage. According to White, the home was later owned "by one Kingman in 1860." In 1868, a deed filed after Charles' death passed a piece of land matching the property's description to Edwin H. Kingman (1809-1874) of North Bridgewater.²

Later, the home came into the hands of Sarah F Hale, a single woman of Brockton, who in 1876 sold the home to Mrs. Susan Thompson, also a single woman of Boston. This deviates from White's account which states that Kingman sold the home to Mrs. Susan Thompson and her son. Susan Thompson, an Irish immigrant and young mother, is shown as the owner on the 1879 Walker Atlas. At this time, there are two structures and one barn on the property. The smaller of the two structures is situated near the street at the front of the lot and was most likely Charles Howland's former store. The 1860 and 1880 U.S. Censuses show that Susan worked as both a tailoress and dressmaker, respectively. The 1860 Census also shows that she had a young son, Charles Thompson, age 5, living with her at the time.

At age 60, Susan Thompson married William Jones on June 1, 1881 in Malden MA. In 1882, Susan and William Jones sold to Henry G Brewster "a certain lot of land together with a dwelling house, a stable and shop thereon..."³ This also deviates from White's account. He states that Susan Thompson and her son sold the home to a Victor Hobill who later sold the home to Brewster.

Henry Gilbert Brewster (1861-1945), a farmer and truckman, married Florence E. Tirrell (1853-1927) in December 1882, soon after they purchased the home. Brewster is shown on the 1903 Richards Atlas and lived there during White's time. By then, there are many small outbuildings and barns to the east of the home. The Brewsters lived in the home with their children, Henry's mother, Sally Farrell, Henry's brother, George, and sometimes a boarder. Florence died in December 1927. In 1943, Henry G. Brewster sold the home to George K. and Helena M. Alexander, a couple from Hanover.⁴

In 1957, the Alexanders sold the home, then only a portion of their property on Main Street, to Joseph P. and Eva Moran.⁵ In 1963, the Morans sold the home to Paul J. and Helen Mahoney.⁶ Paul was a radio man in the US Navy during the Korean War and worked as mail carrier for the US Post Office prior to retiring to Florida.⁷ In 1972, Paul J. and Helen Mahoney sold the property to Richard C. and Bonnie M. Newey.⁸ Ten years later, in 1982, Bonnie M. Newey transferred her title to Richard C. Newey.⁹ After Newey filed for bankruptcy in 1990, the Wollaston Credit Union sold the home to Paul A. Finn (c/o Finiski Realty Trust).¹⁰ Four years later, he sold it to Francis Marini in

¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/86780550>

² Additional support that this is the correct property—the will's executor, E.B.K. Gurney, appears in other deed transfers as the holder of the property's mortgage. Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 347, Page 136

³ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 484, Page 432

⁴ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 1853, Page 358

⁵ The Alexanders continued to own land next to this parcel. Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 2576, Page 298

⁶ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 3060, Page 220

⁷ <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/bostonglobe/obituary.aspx?n=paul-j-mahoney&pid=153482462>

⁸ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 3835, Page 356

⁹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 5120, Page 314

¹⁰ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 12721 Page 6

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

580

Main Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

	HNS.236
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1994.¹¹ Francis Marini sold the home to Jacqueline and Harry Brett, the current owners, in 2004.¹² In 2013, the barn was razed.

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¹¹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 12721 Page 6

¹² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 27985 Page 326

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

580

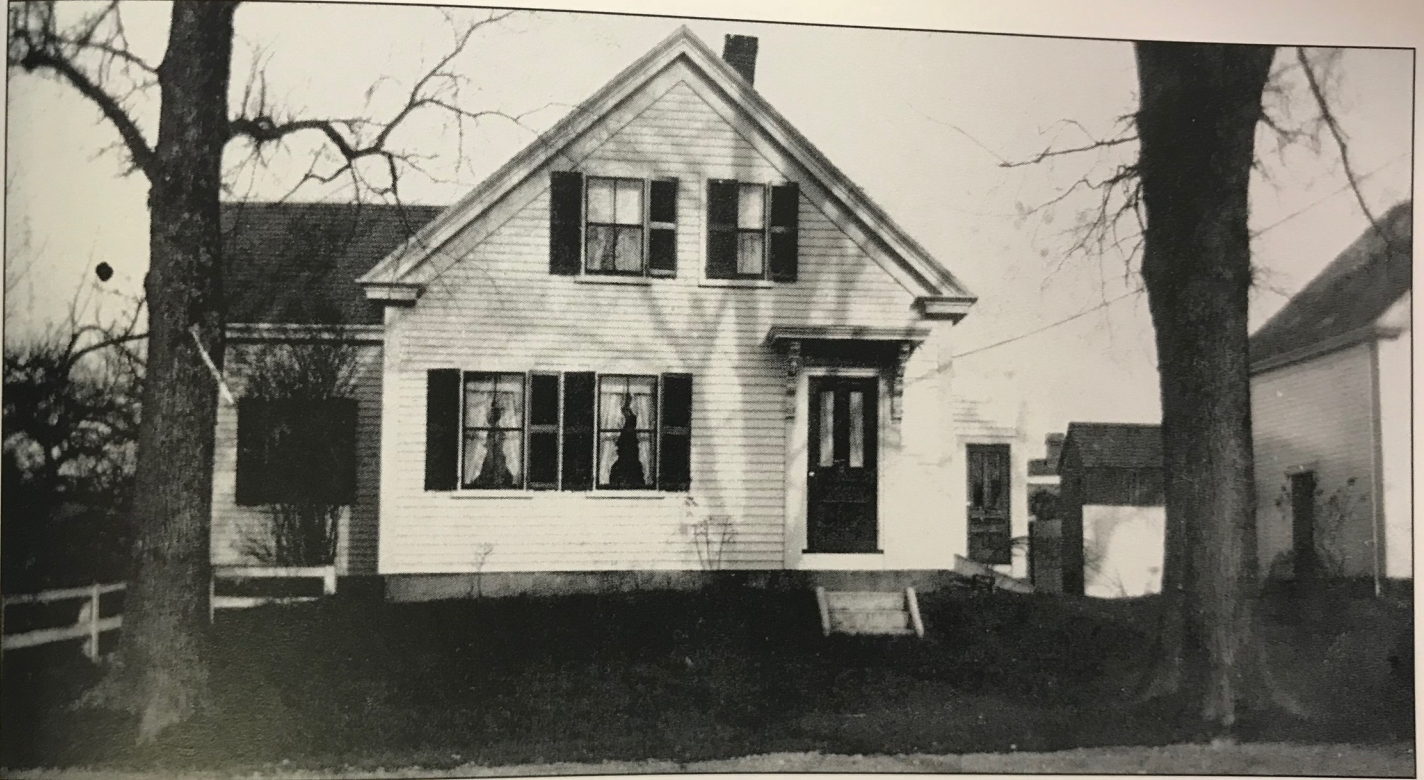
Main Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.236



The home at 580 Main Street was built c. 1850 for Charles Howland. Other residents include the Kingman, Thompson, Hobill, Brewster, and Newey families.

Undated photo of house with former barn to the right Photo taken from *Images of Hanson*, Page 41.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

580

Main Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.236

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district
- ☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ **A** ☐ **B** ☒ **C** ☐ **D**

Criteria Considerations: ☐ **A** ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐ **F** ☐ **G**

Statement of Significance by Lara Kritzer

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The ca. 1837 Greek Revival style cottage is eligible for individual listing on the National Register under Criteria A for its association with the settlement of Plymouth County and Massachusetts, and development of Hanson as a separate town. The house is also eligible under Criteria C as an intact example of a mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival home which has survived in its original location and setting despite over two centuries of use and alteration. The house embodies the distinctive character of early nineteenth century construction and illustrates how these homes were expanded and adapted over time to meet the changing needs of their residents. Additional information on the building's interior will also be needed for the Massachusetts Historical Commission to substantiate its National Register eligibility.